Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 02686 260856Z ACTION EA-12

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SUBJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION--WEISNER SOUTH ASIAN TRIP

DISCUSSING THE CURRENT SOUTH ASIAN TRIP OF USCINCPAC ADMIRAL WEISNER, EDITORIAL IN HSING HSIAN JIT PAO, THAILAND'S LARGEST-CIRCULATION CHINESE-LANGUATE NEWSPAPER, JANUARY 25, SAID THE VISIT IS "UNUSUAL" AND "REFLECTS THE INCREASING AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST IN THE INDIAN OCEAN."

EDIT SAYS THE JOURNEY ALSO POINTS OUT THE "POTENTIAL DANGER OF ANY POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN POWER BALANCE AND THE U.S. INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN ITS POWER THERE FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST."

BUT THE OBJECTIVE OF WEISNER'S TRIP IS MORE POLITICAL THAN MILITARY.

EDIT MAINTAINS. "THE FIVE NATIONS BEING VISITED BY ADMIRAL WEISNER ARE IN FAVOR OF ADECLARATION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN PROCLAIMING IT A NEUTRAL AND DEMILITARIZED ZONE, AND HE WILL CERTAINLY EXPLAIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT... INDIA IS YHE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF WEISNER'S TRIP. IF HE GETS THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO REVISE ITS (INDIAN OCEAN) FOREIGN POLICY, HIS TRIP WILL BE A UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCCESS. OF COURSE, THE FOUR OTHER NATIONS CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED, BECAUSE THEY ARE ALSO IMPORTANT, SINCE PEACE AND SECURITY ARE AN ENTITY AND CANNOT BE SEPARATED, "EDIT CONCLUDES. MCGINLEY

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WEISNER, EDITORIAL IN HSING HSIAN JIT PAO, THAILAN

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